

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 06545 021513Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 DRC-01

/110 W

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R 021332Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8461

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 6545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, KE

SUBJECT: NORTHROP REPRESENTATIVE BRIEFS KENYAN AIR FORCE ON
F-5E FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

1. WILLIAM ROTHEWELL, NORTHROP REGIONAL MANAGER FOR AFRICA, VISITED NAIROBI JULY 29 - AUGUST 1 TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE KENYAN INTEREST IN EVENTUAL ACQUISITION OF F-5E FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. HE CALLED ON DCM WHO PROVIDED BRIEFING AND APPOINTMENT ASSISTANCE NORMALLY GIVEN TO VISITING AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN. DCM EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT USG IS NOT PROMOTING MAJOR ARMS SALES TO KENYA, THAT KENYA IS NOT AT PRESENT ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE FMS ITEMS, AND THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT FMS CREDIT WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE TO KENYA.

2. ON JULY 29, ROTHWELL BRIEFED KENYAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER GICHURU AND OTHE KAF OFFICERS ON F-5E, INCLUDING FILM SHOWING AND RELEASE OF UNRESTRICTED DATA ON F-5E CHARACTERISTICS. ACCORDING TO ROTHWELL, GICHURU WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY F-5E AS
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PAGE 02 NAIROB 06545 021513Z

COUNTER TO THREAT POSED TO KENYA BY GROWING ACQUISITIONS OF

SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY BY SOMALIA AND UGANDA. GICHURU SAID HE PLANNED TO PURSUE FURTHER WITO KENYAN DEFENSE MINISTRY. ROTHWELL EXPLAINED THAT USG PERMISSION WOULD BE NECESSARY IF KENYA WERE TO OBTAIN RESTRICTED TECHNICAL DATA AS WELL AS EVENTUAL RIGHT TO PURCHASE THESE AIRCRAFT. ROTHWELL SUGGESTED TO GICHURU THAT IF GOK DEFENSE MINISTRY WERE INTERESTED, EMBASSY SHOULD BE SO INFORMED. ALTERNATIVELY, HE ADVISED THEM TO WRITE TO NORTHROP AND NORTHROP WOULD THEN REQUEST STATE DEPARTMENT PERMISSION TO RELEASE RESTRICTED TECHNICAL DATA.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO ROTHWELL, MINIMUM PRACTICAL ACQUISITION OF F-5E'S BY KENYANS WOULD INVOLVE PACKAGE OF TWELVE AIRCRAFT WHICH, WITH SPARES AND GROUND EQUIPMENT, WOULD COST SOME 40-50 MILLION DOLLARS. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT GOK COULD CONSIDER ALLOCATING SUCH LARGE SUM TO ACQUISITION FIGHTER AIRCRAFT EVEN IF LIBERAL FINANCING WERE AVAILABLE (WHICH IS NOT CASE). WE DOUBT, THEREFORE, THAT WE WILL RECEIVE ANY SERIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM GOK, ALTHOUGH REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF F-5E TECHNICAL DATA SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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